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A Plan

to Turn a Nation's Offering to their
Wounded Heroes into Permanent
Blessings to Our Country

EVOLVED BY:

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THE American people have given lavishly to the War Fund of the Y. M. C. A. and American Red Cross Society, for service and use in foreign countries for the benefit of our young manhood and for solace and comfort, help and assistance to our heroes on European battlefields.

In a spirit of unselfishness and self-sacrifice we are taking upon our shoulders the fulfillment of a task, the like of which the world has never seen.

We are practically taking over the Red Cross Service in France, building hospitals and recreation grounds over there which will remain as lasting monuments long after the war has been brought to a successful conclusion, as a token of friendship to our Sister Republic "France," a monument to true Democracy. We are doing all this in a spirit of giving by voluntary contributions.

Right that is! As long as we have decided to make the world free for Democracy, it is also our duty to see to it that our children and children's children are not burdened unnecessarily with bonds and taxes, which might mean slavery and not a free democratic country.

It occurred to me that something might be found to turn some of the calamities and terrors of war from a blessing of immediate necessity to an ultimate lasting benefit for our country.

Thousands and thousands of our wounded heroes will have to be returned to our shores after they are partly restored to health on foreign soil, and as soon as they are transportable. Homesickness and loneliness retards recuperation and healing more than anything else. Nothing helps more for quicker restoration of health than our home country, the very air we used to breathe in conjunction with the

tender help, care and watchfulness of Mother, Sister, Sweetheart, Father, Brother, Friends and Relatives.

Under present conditions are we able and in a position to take care of these exigencies? Have we hospital room and beds enough in America to take care of our wounded and sick boys returning from the battlefields of Europe? We have hardly hospital accommodations enough to take care of our every-day needs, not to speak of War Requirements. We might meet and overcome these difficulties by building hospital barracks here and there. This make-shift should by all means be avoided, and can be avoided if my plan, as outlined below, is accepted and made a reality.

As a blessing for the present and for posterity, I beg to propose the erecting of Permanent Hospitals all over the country with a capacity of at least two hundred and fifty (250) beds each. The Building Fund is to be raised by voluntary contribution through the War Council of the American Red Cross Society. These Hospitals are to be known as Red Cross Hospitals and to be conducted now and hereafter under the supervision of the Red Cross Society in Washington, in this war and all wars hereafter as well as during peace time.

These Hospitals to serve at the same time as schools for male and female nurses.

It might even be advisable to form Special Red Cross Nurses Societies under Headquarters Control, to serve as training grounds for efficiency and as a parallel to Officers Training Camps.

From one to five of these Hospitals should be built in every State of the Union, in accordance with the population of each State, its quota of men furnished to the Army and Navy and other branches.

A further consideration should be the amount of money subscribed by the Individual States.

There is no doubt in my mind that the raising of the money will be an easy matter. A people which subscribes over a hundred million dollars for Red Cross Service in France, will only be too glad to give four times that much for Red Cross Service within their own borders; especially when it means something of permanent benefit and lasting value.

Hospitals will have to be erected anyhow. Why not go ahead in a thorough way and build them for eternity? This plan will appeal to a great many and find liberal responses from people whose pocketbooks so far have had a narrow opening.

Enough bonds will have to be issued to cover most of this war's expenditures. Why not go ahead and pay cash through donations for these hospitals and present them to our children as the truest token of our affection?

The matter of Building Fund properly settled and provided for, I beg to suggest that the Hospital grounds have at least ten acres and more if possible, and should be donated by the larger cities who desire to harbor one of these Red Cross Hospitals. The donation of these sites should be insisted upon not only to stimulate the interest in the campaign in a general way, but to keep alive and create additional interest and "ardour to help" in the smaller and rural communities, who, of course, can be benefited by these hospitals only in an indirect way.

It would perhaps be advisable in consideration of future developments of cities and after war requirements, to have locations selected at the outskirts of the cities with easy access to railroads with spur tracks.

In order to obtain the best results for these pro-

posed hospitals on the economic side, a uniformity of buildings should be agreed upon, suitable for all climates of our country, to get the best results at the lowest cost.

It is my privilege to attach a preliminary plan of a hospital, such as I consider feasible and advisable to build and estimate of cost excluding real estate. Labor and material might differ somewhat in the various parts of the country. The estimate attached, however, might be considered a fair average. My idea is that on an average of three (3) hospitals per State will be required, which of course does not preclude New York, Massachusetts or Pennsylvania from building more, and New Mexico, Arizona and other States with a small population from building only one.

On this basis we will have to build one hundred and forty-four (144) hospitals at a cost of about \$350,000 each, or a total of about \$50,000,000 as a Building Fund.

If my plan or any similar one be accepted, we can provide facilities for about 50,000 beds, which we can equip easily with all modern requirements for an additional sum of about \$50,000,000, or a grand total of \$100,000,000.

For maintenance of these hospitals a sum of \$27,500,000 per annum will be required, provided all beds are occupied. During war time these expenses will of course have to be borne by the Federal Government through the Military Department in conjunction with the Red Cross Society.

It has been my intention to call for the creation of a Fund known as The Red Cross Hospital Home Endowment Fund of seven hundred million dollars, which, at 4%, would yield the necessary means. Considering the changed conditions for after-war

requirements, such a plan has to be relegated to the scrap heap; the more so, as the required amount is too large to be considered. Besides, these hospitals can easily be made halfway or wholly self-supporting. All deficits to be borne, 50% by the Red Cross Society or the Federal Government; 25% by the State and 25% by the City in which it is located. Details to be worked out at the proper time.

To bring this plan to a successful and quick conclusion, a special Committee as part of the Red Cross War Council should be appointed.

The Hundred Million Dollar Red Cross War Fund has been a tremendous success. A Hundred Million Dollar Red Cross Hospital Fund should be a greater one.

Any oversubscriptions might be applied to the equipments of Hospital trains.

In conclusion, don't let us forget that the treating of our wounded soldiers at home means a great saving in other directions. Besides it enables us to keep hundreds of physicians and nurses at home, thus multiplying their usefulness beyond description.

It is our duty to prosecute this war with all our might, but part of our duty is, at the same time, to conserve the man-power, the resources of our country for our home-land.

This plan is intended to form a small part of these duties which I hope will prove acceptable.

Respectfully submitted,
R. COHN.

It matters not whether the buildings are erected as per attached draft, but it matters much that these Hospitals are built quickly.

COST AND CONSTRUCTION

BUILDING 5.76 FEET COST \$30,000. AT 200 PER CUBIC
FOOT FOR TIMBER, GROUND OR STONE, FURNISHINGS,
REFINERIES, COOKERS, CONSTRUCTION, ETC.
STRUCTURE THAT CONSIST OF WOODEN
WALLS, WITH STONE OR TERRA COTTA TILES

DESCRIPTION

NO. 1. ADMINISTRATION BUILDING - 3 STORIES & BASALT-
BASIN CONTAINS LAUNDRY, KITCHEN, BAKERY,
DINING ROOM FOR HELP, DINING ROOMS FOR CONVALESCENTS
FIRST STORY CONTAINS, OFFICE, EXAMINING ROOMS, CLERKS,
SUPAINTENDENT AND SURGEONS ROOMS, CLERKS.
SECOND STORY CONTAINS, PRIVATE HOSPITAL ROOMS FOR
OFFICERS.
THIRD STORY CONTAINS, INFIRMARY ROOMS, XRAY ROOMS.
NO. 2 AND 3. WARDS - 3 STORIES
FIRST STORY CONTAINS SANITATION, RECREATION ROOMS,
SECOND AND THIRD STORIES TO OWN IN WARDS, EACH WARD
TO CONTAIN 32 BEDS (TWO IN ALL WARDS, 5).
NO. 4 AND 5. WARDS - 3 STORIES
FIRST STORY, ISOLATING WARDS, PLAT MONTHLY MOON, NOON & AT
SECOND & THIRD STORIES WARDS, PLAT MONTHLY MOON, NOON & AT
NO. 6, 7, 8, 9. SOLARIUMS FOR EACH STORY
NO. 10. POWER HOUSE.

